

Cancel

Affymetrix, Ligase Chain Reaction or Ligase Amplification Reaction (LCR or LAR), Self-Sustained Synthetic Reaction (3SR/NASBA), Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP), Cycling Probe Reaction (CPR), Single-Strand Conformation Polymorphism (SSCP), heteroduplex analysis, hybridization mismatch using nucleases (*e.g.*, cleavase), Southern, Northern, Westerns, South Westerns, ASOs, Molecular beacons, footprinting, and Fluorescent *In Situ* Hybridization (FISH). Some of these methods are briefly described below.

In the Claims

Already cancelled see intro/A

W.B. Please cancel claims 23 and 28, and substitute the following claims for the pending claims having the same claim numbers:

Sub C17 B2

19. (Amended Once) A method of estimating the susceptibility of an individual to have offspring that develop a developmental disorder comprising:

- (a) collecting a biological sample from one or more participants; wherein a participant is either the individual or a blood relative of the individual; and wherein the biological sample contains nucleic acids and/or proteins of the participant;
- (b) analyzing the nucleic acids and/or proteins from the biological sample; wherein said analyzing results in a partial or full genotype for the alleles of the genes involved in folate, pyridoxine, and/or cobalamin metabolism; and wherein said partial or full genotype forms a dataset of genetic explanatory variables for the participants;
- (c) adding the datasets of genetic explanatory variables obtained from steps (a) and (b) to a genetic reference dataset therein forming a combined genetic dataset;
- (d) formulating a model comprising the genetic explanatory variables obtained from the participants; and
- (e) analyzing the combined genetic dataset by binary logistic regression; wherein a predicted probability for the individual to have offspring that develop a developmental disorder is determined; wherein the genetic and environmental susceptibility of an individual to have offspring that develop a developmental disorder is estimated, and wherein the individual is a pregnant woman.

Sub C1 A3

24. (Amended Once) A method of lowering the risk of a pregnant woman who has been determined by the method of Claim 21 to be susceptible to have offspring that develop a developmental disorder comprising administering methylfolate, cobalamin or pyridoxine to the pregnant woman, wherein said administering lowers the risk of the pregnant woman of giving birth to offspring with a developmental disorder.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

25. (Amended Once) A method of determining if any treatment is advisable for a pregnant woman who has been determined by the method of Claim 21 to be susceptible to having offspring that develop a developmental disorder comprising determining the concentration of a risk factor from a tissue sample or body fluid from the pregnant woman; wherein when the concentration of the risk factor is statistically above or below an accepted normal range, treatment is advisable.

29. (Amended Once) A method of treating an asymptomatic individual determined by the method of Claim 21 to be susceptible for developing a developmental disorder comprising administering methylfolate, cobalamin or pyridoxine.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY